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Season 2 of *In Focus*, The Cleveland Orchestra's digital concert series, premieres February 4 on adella.live and Adella streaming app

Six episodes, one release per month February to June with behind-the-scenes interviews and features about the music and music making

New pricing of \$15/month or \$120/year will continue for Season 2

CLEVELAND – Today, The Cleveland Orchestra announced details of the second season of *In Focus*, its digital streaming concert series on adella.live and the Adella digital streaming app. Following its successful launch in 2020 and series of fifteen episodes in Season 1, the second season of *In Focus*, running from February to June, includes a total of six new episodes. Details of *In Focus* Season 2 are included in the Calendar Listing and Program Information section below.

In Focus Season 2 includes three performances led by music director Franz Welser-Möst, as well as guest conductors John Adams, Herbert Blomstedt, and Jane Glover. Guest soloists featured are pianists Imogen Cooper, Jeremy Denk, and Igor Levit, as well as saxophonist Stephen Banks and soprano Latonia Moore. Among the highlights are video recordings of the world premiere performances of two Cleveland Orchestra commissions: Hans Abrahamsen's *Vers le Silence*, a co-commission, and Berndt Richard Deutsch's *Intensity* for orchestra. Other music selections include works by Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, Mozart, and Nielsen and the contemporary voices of John Adams, Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Carlos Simon, Gabriella Smith, and George Walker. While live concert performances are central to each episode, the broadcasts of *In Focus: Season 2* are not just video captures of weekly, live, in-person concerts at Severance. Rather, each episode will provide a window into the singular world of The Cleveland Orchestra with intimate stories and artist insights, bringing the viewer deeper inside the music and creative process. The season's episodes are drawn from the second half of the Orchestra's 2021-22 Classical Season.

With funding from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, the Orchestra has embarked upon an ambitious upgrade to its video recording capabilities in Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center. Dan Slentz, chief video engineer, and Clyde Scott, video system designer, have overseen the installation of new camera and recording equipment that has allowed the filming of performances with minimal disruption to the live audience experience. The goal is to expand access to The Cleveland Orchestra across the globe by investing in digital infrastructure and providing audiences with increased program and content choices through the Adella streaming platform. Adella Premium subscribers can continue to enjoy all broadcast episodes as well as both seasons of The Cleveland Orchestra's podcast, *On a Personal Note*, currently available on the platform. For more information, visit

clevelandorchestra.com/attend/seasons-and-series/in-focus/ and clevelandorchestra.com/attend/adella/.

In Focus Season 2 is produced by Lumahai Productions with music and performance capture directed by Habib Azar, Matthew Diamond, and Elena Park. Elaine Martone is Audio Producer and Gintas Norvila, Chief Audio Engineer, on the project.

“Today’s digital world requires a digital vision: to fully utilize the power of technology to deepen the audience’s experience and create an online community of symphonic music and Cleveland Orchestra lovers. With the Adella platform and *In Focus*, we envision a space where a community of curious individuals can connect around great music and storytelling; where they can discover new works and artists or revisit favorite performances, said André Gremillet, President & CEO of The Cleveland Orchestra.

“Recently, we’ve come to consider The Cleveland Orchestra, among its many traits, as a digital content creator. To that end, with music director Franz Welser-Möst, in 2020 The Cleveland Orchestra launched Adella and our flagship series of broadcasts, *In Focus*. The music we make, the ways in which we make it, and the thoughts and conversations that infuse everything we do, is all dynamic content. The Mandel Foundation’s extraordinary gift, for which we are incredibly grateful, is integral to helping us realize our bold digital strategy. Music has a unique ability to comfort, to move, to surprise, and to inspire us. That power allows to meet our audiences wherever they are: Severance or Blossom Music Centers, Miami, on tour around the world, or online.”

About *In Focus* Season 1

The inspiring debut season of *In Focus*, has reached music lovers throughout Northeast Ohio and around the world, offering extraordinary musical performances by The Cleveland Orchestra and celebrated guest artists, across thirteen episodes (and two bonus broadcasts). To date, videos on the Adella site and app have been viewed close to 86,000 times and more than 169,000 people have visited the site and app; people are watching from all 50 states and in over 40 countries. In addition to the concert performances, each episode of *In Focus* includes behind-the-scenes interviews and features about the music and music-making. Of Season 1, [cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com) said “...orchestra patrons now are being served digital programming at its finest,” and “...the Adella streaming app, which again delivers a rich, engaging, and musically satisfying experience.” When the Covid-19 pandemic halted in-person audiences and live concerts in spring 2020, The Cleveland Orchestra accelerated its long-term plans for a digital broadcast series and *In Focus* was launched with five episodes later that fall. Music Director Franz Welser-Möst was intimately involved in reshaping and reprogramming the music for the series, leading ten performances of the inaugural season’s fifteen programs. In addition to guest collaborators (including pianists Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman, organist Paul Jacobs, and nine Cleveland Orchestra principal players), the inaugural season featured two solo recital bonus episodes, created by pianist [Mitsuko Uchida](#) and cellist [Alisa Weilerstein](#).

Adella Premium Subscriber Information:

Subscriber access for another season: Severance Subscribers and Monthly Giving Partners have been automatically renewed for another full season as a benefit of their ongoing support of The Cleveland Orchestra. **No credit card or promo code required:** It is no longer necessary for a valid credit card to be on file for Adella Premium subscriptions to be enabled and no promotional code is required. Qualified subscribers will receive an email to complete the setup process once their account has been activated. If Adella Premium Subscribers have questions about their account or these changes, please contact adellahelp@clevelandorchestra.com during business hours Monday to Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM and provide the best phone number to call, and an AdellaHelp Team Member will be in contact.

For patrons paying monthly for Adella Premium access, payments have been paused until the second season of *In Focus* begins in February 2022. Beginning in February payments will resume at the new, lower price of \$15/month. Adella Premium subscribers will still have access to all the current and new content on the platform during this time.

Adella Digital Streaming and App

Adella is The Cleveland Orchestra's digital streaming service premiered in October 2020. The Adella app and digital media offering is named after the Orchestra's founder, Adella Prentiss Hughes. Adella is free to download and access, and includes free content from the Orchestra's Archives, *On A Personal Note* podcast, and other performance highlights. For more information, visit clevelandorchestra.com/attend/adella/ and adella.live/.

To view premium content, such as the Orchestra's *In Focus* concert series, guests will need access to Adella Premium. This service can be purchased for \$15.00/month or \$120.00/annually. Adella Premium is also automatically available to The Cleveland Orchestra's Severance Subscribers (including Members Club and Frequent Fan Card holders) and donors who are Monthly Giving Partners and give more than \$25.00 per month. Those interested in purchasing a Severance subscription or membership can contact the Cleveland Orchestra Ticket Office by phone at 216-231-1111, e-mail boxoffice@clevelandorchestra.com, or at clevelandorchestra.com.

The Cleveland Orchestra is grateful for the following supporters of *In Focus*:

The Cleveland Orchestra's Digital Concert Hall is made possible by a generous grant from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation.

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The programs detailed in this release are supported in part by the Ohio Arts Council, which receives support from the State of Ohio and the National Endowment of the Arts, and the residents of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

CALENDAR LISTING AND PROGRAM INFORMATION *IN FOCUS* SEASON 2:

Season 2, Episode 1: *Aftersilence*

Digital streaming premiere Friday, February 4, 2022 at 7:00 PM ET

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, conductor

Igor Levit, Piano

ABRAHAMSEN *Vers le Silence* [World Premiere Recording, Cleveland Orchestra Co-Commission]

BRAHMS Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Opus 83

Director: Habib Azar

Producer: Lumahai Productions

Emerging from a collective period of silence and reflection, Franz Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra launch the second *In Focus* season with a fitting program: one exploring the experience of silence, whether before a composer sketches the first bars of a new work or the expectant moments before a performance. Episode 1:

Aftersilence features the world premiere of Hans Abrahamsen's *Vers Le Silence and Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2* featuring soloist Igor Levit. The episode also includes interviews with Welser-Möst, principal horn Nathaniel Silberschlag and Abrahamsen, from his composing base in Denmark through the first performance in Cleveland.

Season 2, Episode 2: *Begin Again*

Digital streaming premiere Friday, March 4, 2022 at 7:00 PM ET

The Cleveland Orchestra

Franz Welser-Möst, conductor

DEUTSCH *Intensity* for orchestra [World Premiere Recording, Cleveland Orchestra commission]

DVOŘÁK *Symphony No. 8 in G major, Opus 88*

Director: Habib Azar

Producer: Lumahai Productions

What is it like to start writing a new piece of music, after you have composed many? As a conductor, how does one tackle an unknown piece by a young composer, or revisit a well-known piece of music by a familiar composer? Episode 2 of *In Focus, Begin Again*, explores the experience of first-time musical encounters as Franz Welser-Möst leads the world premiere performance of Bernd Richard Deutsch's *Intensity*, and Dvořák's Eighth Symphony. The episode features in depth discussions with Welser-Möst, Deutsch and André Gremillet, President & CEO of The Cleveland Orchestra about the process of beginning....again and again.

Season 2, Episode 3: *Adams Through The Looking Glass*

Digital streaming premiere Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM ET

The Cleveland Orchestra

John Adams, conductor

Jeremy Denk, piano

Steven Banks, saxophone

SMITH *Tumblebird Contrails*

ADAMS *Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?*

SIMON *Fate Now Conquers*

GLASS *Facades* from *Glassworks*

REICH *Three Movements for Orchestra*

Director: Matthew Diamond

Producer: Lumahai Productions

American icon John Adams curates and conducts a program of Steve Reich (*Three Movements for Orchestra*) and Philip Glass (*Facades* from *Glassworks*), featuring saxophonist Steven Banks, emerging composers Gabriella Smith (*Tumblebird Contrails*) and Carlos Simon (*Fate Now Conquers*), and his own *Must the Devil Have All the Good Tunes?*, featuring pianist Jeremy Denk. Through the Adams looking glass, we see reflections of his past, present and future — as a composer, an influencer, and a champion of new music and musicians. Episode 3: *Adams Through The Looking Glass* features conversations with Adams himself and a new generation of bold voices.

Season 2, Episode 4: *Herbert Blomstedt, An Enduring Sage*

Digital streaming premiere Friday, May 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM ET

The Cleveland Orchestra

Herbert Blomstedt, conductor

NIELSEN *Symphony No. 4 ("The Inextinguishable")*, Opus 29

BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67*

Director: Matthew Diamond
Producer: Lumahai Productions

Maestro Herbert Blomstedt, is a long a treasured friend and collaborator of The Cleveland Orchestra. A man whose faith, spirituality, and communion with music imbue every rehearsal and performance. In Episode 4: *Herbert Blomstedt, An Enduring Sage*, he conducts Nielsen's Symphony 4 ("The Inextinguishable") and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. Through conversations with those who know and adore him, the episode will provide a glimpse into how he elicits great performances from orchestras across the globe, and insists on humanity to be at their best.

Season 2, Episode 5: A Very British Invasion

Digital streaming premiere Friday, June 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM ET

The Cleveland Orchestra
Jane Glover, conductor
Imogen Cooper, piano

BRITTEN *Suite on English Folk Tunes*, Opus 90
MOZART Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat major, K. 482
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*

Director: Elena Park
Producer: Lumahai Productions

Two towering British artistic figures — Maestro Jane Glover and pianist Imogen Cooper — reunite in Cleveland for a program featuring music by countrymen Benjamin Britten (*Suite on English Folk Tunes*, Op. 90) and Ralph Vaughan Williams (*Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*), as well as Mozart's (Piano Concerto No. 22 in E-flat major, K. 482). In conversation, these longtime friends will reflect not only on their enduring collaboration, but on a wide range of topics from Mozart's *Women to the* hidden power of the re-creative process in music.

Season 2, Episode 6: From Richard Strauss to George Walker

Digital streaming premiere Friday, June 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM ET

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, conductor
Latoria Moore, soprano

R. STRAUSS Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier* (compiled by Welser-Möst)
WALKER *Lilacs* for voice and orchestra

Director: Habib Azar
Producer: Lumahai Productions

In a program showcasing the breadth and variety of 20th century music, Franz Welser-Möst leads The Cleveland Orchestra and soprano Latoria Moore in their first performance of George Walker's *Lilacs*, which premiered in 1995, as well as an extended suite from Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* (1911), compiled by Welser-Möst. The episode will examine his special, long-standing connection to the music of Strauss, and provide an in-depth look into Walker, the first African-American composer to receive a Pulitzer Prize, which was for *Lilacs*.

In addition to the concert performances, each *In Focus* episode includes behind-the-scenes interviews and features about the music and music making.

All programs and artists are subject to change.

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